Abstract

An E-commerce system logic of defining product specifications with or without option variable questions by means of a XSD file. The XSD file (or other Document Type Definitions (DTD) files) defines: type of data input, more information links, format ability, edit rules on the answer, and error message words if input errors occur. The option selections will have user definable interrelationship with cross checking between options. Each option element has the ability to invoke a specified "More Information" link with answers integrated back to the questions. Real time Scalable Vector Graphic (SVG) layout can be achieved in the More Information screen. The XSL file is used to define various components such as: math to compute the selling price, shipping cost, sales tax & other fields. The resultant option answers with or without SVG is retained in XML format in a single table within the database. The final checkout order will not occur until the update cart has been successfully completed without any errors.

Each option is contained in an element definitions for standalone and for the Portal access additional subset (using <xs:annotation>) within each element of the e-commerce system. The Portal will allow prospects to select a product family. A system defined allowed number of suppliers can be selected to provide quotes via Web Services. The returned quoted price is displayed to the prospect with the ability to select the supplier and award the contract. The prospect continues on to the awarded supplier's site for completion of credit processing information to complete the commerce transaction. The portal will retain historical information of the transactions.